

2015 National Preparedness Report

REPORT SUMMARY

The 2015 *National Preparedness Report* identifies six key findings that outline overarching national trends, as well as additional findings for each of the five preparedness mission areas included in the Goal.

Topic	Overarching Finding
Additional Capabilities to Sustain	Environmental Response/Health and Safety, Intelligence and Information Sharing, and Operational Coordination are additional core capabilities to sustain, which are capabilities in which the Nation has developed acceptable levels of performance for critical tasks, but which face potential performance declines if not maintained and updated to address new challenges.
National Areas for Improvement	Cybersecurity, Housing, Infrastructure Systems, and Long-term Vulnerability Reduction remain national areas for improvement, and Economic Recovery re-emerged as an area for improvement from the 2012 and 2013 <i>National Preparedness Reports</i> . Access Control and Identity Verification is a newly identified national area for improvement.
Response Coordination Challenges for Events that Do Not Receive Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) Declarations	Recent events, including the epidemic of Ebola virus disease, have highlighted challenges with coordinating the response to and recovery from complex incidents that do not receive Stafford Act declarations.
Incorporating Emergency Preparedness into Technology Platforms	Businesses and public-private partnerships are increasingly incorporating emergency preparedness into technology platforms, such as Internet and social media tools and services.
Challenges Assessing the Status of Corrective Actions	While Federal departments and agencies individually assess progress for corrective actions identified during national-level exercises and real-world incidents, challenges remain to comprehensively assess corrective actions with broad implications across the Federal Government.
Self-assessment Results from States and Territories	Perspectives from states and territories on their current levels of preparedness were similar to previous years. All 10 core capabilities with the highest self-assessment results in 2012 and 2013 remained in the top-10 for 2014; Cybersecurity continues to be the lowest-rated core capability in state and territory self-assessments.

This report marks the fourth *National Preparedness Report*. Required annually by *Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness*, the *National Preparedness Report* summarizes progress in building, sustaining, and delivering the 31 core capabilities described in the *National Preparedness Goal* (the Goal). Each year, the report presents an opportunity to assess gains that whole community partners—including all levels of government, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, communities, and individuals—have made in preparedness, and to identify where challenges remain. The 2015 *National Preparedness Report* focuses primarily on preparedness activities undertaken or reported during 2014.

The intent of the *National Preparedness Report* is to provide the Nation with practical insights on preparedness that can inform decisions about program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions. The 2015 *National Preparedness Report* places particular emphasis on highlighting preparedness progress in implementing the National Planning Frameworks (the Frameworks) across the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas. The Frameworks describe how the whole community works together to achieve the goal of a secure and resilient Nation.